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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SCI-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 SAJ-01 NSF-04 CIEP-02 /182 W
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P R 161028Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3924
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR BELL, LONG, ERS AND FAS

PARIS FOR SECRETARY BUTZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR UR
SUBJECT: FIRST MEETING OF JOINT US/USSR COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

REF: STATE 221493; MOSCOW 14057; MOSCOW 14106; MOSCOW 14176

1. SUMMARY: FIRST MEETING OF JOINT US/USSR JOINT COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS CONCLUDED BY SIGNING OF PROTOCOL BY US AND SOVIET CO-CHARIMEN. U.S. DELEGATION ASSESSES RESULTS AS BERY POSITIVE FROM U.S. STANDPOINT. SOVIETS FIELDED HIGHLY COMPETENT DELEGATION WHOSE ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT NEGOTIATIONS NOVEMBER 11-15 VERY FRIENDLY AND MORE ACCOMMODATING THAN EXPECTED. RELATION-SHIPS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN TWO DELEGATIONS SHOULD FACILITATE FUTURE MEETINGS AND COOPERATION. U.S. DELEGATION PROPOSES USDA ORGANIZE EARLY MEETING WHERE DETAILED PRESENTATION CAN BE MADE ON AGREED US/USSR PROGRAM. THE TWO WORKING GROUPS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN IN SPRING 1974 AND JOINT COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER IN
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WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

2. FIRST MEETING OF JOINT US/USSR COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION COLCLUDED WITH SIGNING LATE NOVEMBER 15 OF PROTOCOL

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AT MINISTRY OA AGRICULTURE BY CO-CHAIRMEN B.A. RUNOV, USSR
DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND CARROLL G. BRUNTHAVER,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COMMODITY
PROGRAMS, USDA. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE POLYANSKIY PRESENT.
PROTOCOL INCLUDES AS APPENDICES AGREED MINUTES AND DETAILS OF
JOINT PROJECTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN
U.S. AND SOVIET INSTITUTIONS IN FIELDS OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY. THE LATTER WERE
PREPARED DURING INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS FROM
NOVEMBER 11-15 BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET DELEGATES IN JOINT WORKING
GROUPS ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND INFORMATION AND
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY. NOVEMBER 16 ISSUE OF
PRAVDA CARRIED SUBSTANTIAL ARTICLE CONCERNING JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING DESCRIBING COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY
U.S. AND U.S.S.R.

3. U.S. DELEGATION ASSESSES OVERALL RESULTS ACHIEVED AS HIGHLY
SATISFACTORY TO INTERESTS OF U.S. IN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
AREA AGREEMENT WAS OBTAINED ON MOST OF PRINCIPAL U.S. OBJECTIVES,
INCLUDING THOSE OF FARM AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY INSTITUTE.
NEGOTIATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY AREA FACILITATED BY SEVERAL PREVIOUS
DETAILED DISCUSSIONS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 1972 UNDER SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT. IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SECTOR
DISCUSSIONS BEGAN ESSENTIALLY FROM SQUARE ONE BUT WERE CONCLUDED
WITH VERY POSITIVE RESULTS FROM U.S. STANDPOINT IN AREAS OF
FORECASTING PRODUCTION AND DEMAND, UNDERTAKINGS IN AGRIBUSINESS
INVOLVING PRIVATE U.S. AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS AND EXCHANGE OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC INFORMATION. WHILE TOTAL U.S. OBJECTIVES
PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO OBTAINING CURRENT SOVIET DATA AND
FORECASTING ON FOREIGN TRADE AND STOCKS OF MAJOR COMMODITIES
WERE NOT ACHEIVED, THE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO FURNISH MORE NEW
AND MORE TIMELY INFORMATION THAN EXPERIENCED U.S. OFFICIALS
BELIEVED POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF THESE MEETINGS. AS IMPROVING
THE FLOW OF ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON U.S.S.R. AGRICULTURE WILL
BE A CONTINUING PROCESS THIS BEGINNING COULD AUGUR WELL FOR THE
FUTURE. ON STOCK AND TRADE DATA THE SOVIETS MAINTAINED THESE
ARE CLOSELY HELD BY MAIN STATISTICAL ADMINISTRATION AND FOREIGN
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TRADE MINISTRY, RESPECTIVELY. FINAL MINUTES OF WORKING GROUP
ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CONTAINS STATEMENT BY BRUNTHAVER IN
EFFECT CHALLENGING U.S.S.R. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO CARRY
OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITY UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE JUNE 19 AGREEMENT
TO ACT AS THE COORDINATING AGENCY TO OBTAIN AND FURNISH THE
RELEVANT ECONOMIC INFORMATION, INCLUDING FORWARD ESTIMATES,
CALLED FOR UNDER PARAGRAPH 1, ARTICLE II ON PRODUCTION, CON-
SUMPTION, DEMAND AND TRADE OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.
BRUNTHAVER'S STATEMENT FOLLOWED BY STATEMENT BY RUNOV SAYING
THAT MANY MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE II
HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED UPON AND THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD
MAKE AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE ANY OUTSTANDING MATTERS. THESE TWO

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STATEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE VERBALLY IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. WORKING GROUP MINUTES ALSO CONTAIN STATEMENT THAT TRADE QUESTIONS ARE UNDER COMPETENCE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SOVIET SIDE AGREES THAT IT WILL ASK THAT MINISTRY TO MAKE AVAILABLE SPECIALISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.

4. AGRICULTURA ECONOMICS WORKING GROUP MINUTES AND AGREED PROJECTS CONTAIN AGREEMENT TO CONSULT ON CURRENT AGRICULTURAL SITUATION AT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND ALSO FOR CONSULTATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS BY COMMODITY SPECIALISTS. POTENTIALLY, THESE CONSULTATIONS AND ON-THE-SPOT OBSERVATIONS PROVIDE VALUABLE MEANS OF EVALUATING PRODUCTIONA AND TRADE PROSPECTS IN ADVANCE. NEXT MEETING OF WORKING GROUP TO BE HELD IN APRIL OR MAY IN WASHINGTON.

5. SOVIETS EXPRESSED POSITIVE INTEREST IN US. PROPOSAL FOR SOLO FOOD PRODUCTS AND PROCESSING IN 1974 IN USSR. SOVIETS REQUESTED U.S. FURNISH DETAILED PROPOSAL ON STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND SIZE OF US. EXHIBIT AND AGREED TO GIVE FINAL DECISION ON EXHIBIT WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

6. AGREED PROGRAM IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS INCLUDES THREE BROAD PROJECTS: (A) DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR DATA ORGANIZATION, ALALYSIS, FORECASTING AND EVALUATION OF FORECASTS OF DEMAND AND PRODUCTION; (B) AGRIBUSINESS ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT PROCESSING; AND (C) EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION. LATTER PROJECT STATEMENT CONTAINS SPECIFIC LIST OF TEN BROAD CATEGORIES OF DATA TO BE MADE AVAILABLE BY SOVIETS AND U.S. INCLUDING SCHEDULE OF DATES INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED. THESE INCLUDE CROP AREAS
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SOWN, YIELDS AND PRODUCTION, LIVESTOCK NUMBERS, ANIMAL FEED UTILIZATION, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF FOOD PRODUCTS AND DETAILED DATA ON ALL MAJOR CROPS, LEVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTION CONTAINED IN ANNUAL SOVIET PLANS AFTER APPROVAL BY SUPREME SOVIET.
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ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NSF-04 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /182 W
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7. THE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL WORKING GROUP COMPLETED NEGOTIATION IN TIME TO DISCUSS PROPOSED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES WITH MR. EDMINSTER AND DR. LOVVORN BEFORE SIGNING. MR. EDMINSTER PRESENTED THE PROGRAM OF THE WORKING GROUP TO JOINT COMMITTEE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. DR. LOVVORN SIGNED PROTOCOLS IN EDMINSTER'S ABSENCE. BASIC AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON JOINT ACTIVITY TO BE UNDERTAKEP DURING TERM OF THE AGREEMENT IN PROGRAM AREAS OF PLANT SCIENCE, LIVESTOCK SCIENCE, SOIL SCIENCE, AND MECHANIZATION. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN 1974 AND 1975, TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN GREATER DETAIL AT THE SECOND WORKING GROUP MEETING; AND TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING. THE SECOND MEETING WAS SET FOR SPRING 1974 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE PLANNED 1974 PROGRAM CONSISTS OF SCIENTIST AND TEAM EXCHANGES AND JOINT WORKSHOPS. WHERE POSSIBLE THESE ACTIVITIES WERE PLANNED AROUND MEETINGS AND SYMPOSIA ALREADY SCHEDULED. U.S. SIDE OBTAINED AGREEMENT TO INITIATE MOST PROGRAM ACTIVITIES PROPOSED EITHER IN 1974-1975. THOSE ACTIVITIES NOT PLANNED WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT THE SECOND WORKING GROUP MEETING. SPECIAL
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EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FARM EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY AND SOVIET EQUIPMENT ORGANIZATION. U.S. SIDE AGREED TO RECEIVE A SIMILAR NUMBER OF TEAMS AND SCIENTISTS IN THE SAME OR ACTIVITIES CLOSELY RELATED TO THE U.S. PROGRAM. THE U.S. RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM FEELS THAT A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND BALANCED PROGRAM WAS NEGOTIATED. IF PROGRAM CARRIED OUT AS PLANNED GREATER ACCESS TO SOVIET INSTITUTES AND RESEARCH CENTERS U.S. WILL BENEFIT FROM RESEARCH INFORMATION AND GERM PLASM OBTAINED, AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SOVIET RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY WILL BE DETERMINED. THE PROGRAM ALSO IS THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A FULLY COORDINATED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRAM IN AGRICULTURE.

8. U.S. PROPOSAL FOR JOINT PROJECT ON PERMAFROST SOILS NOT ACCEPTED BY SOVIETS AS THEY CONTENDED NO INTEREST IN SUBJECT. IT IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, THERE IS AN INSTITUTE IN LENINGRAD ON ARTIC AGRICULTURE. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS (APPENDIX 4)

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CONTAIN LIST OF SUBJECTS TO BE TAKEN UP AT NEXT MEETING WHICH INCLUDES TOPICS ON MANAGEMENT OF PERMANENTLY FROZEN SOILS. OVERALL PLANT SCIENCE PROGRAM INCLUDES ITEM ON CROP BREEDING AND SELECTION FOR TOLERANCE TO UNFAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTS (COLD, DROUGHT, ETC.).

9. U.S. DELEGATION IMPRESSED BY COMPETENCE OF SOVIET PARTICIPANTS AND FRIENDLY ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT MEETINGS. NEXT MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER 1974 IN WASHINGTON.

10. U.S. DELEGATION SUGGESTS EARLY MEETING BE XCHEDULED BY USDA WHEN DETAILED PRESENTATION CAN BE MADE ON ALL ASPECTS OF AGREED US/USSR PROGRAM TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW14314
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731166/abqcegbg.tel
Line Count: 233
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 221493; MOSCOW 14057; MOSCOW 14106; MOSCOW 14176
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST MEETING OF JOINT US/USSR COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION
TAGS: EAGR, UR, US
To: STATE INFO PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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